



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 213

LCO No. 1370



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE VETERANS' OPPORTUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) There is established
2 within the Labor Department the Veterans' Opportunities pilot
3 program. The program shall consist of (1) grants from the department
4 to nonprofit housing agencies to hire job placement specialists trained
5 to understand the employment challenges and advantages unique to
6 veterans, and (2) a state-wide coordinator within the department to
7 manage the network of employment services for veterans.
- 8 (b) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the
9 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, shall develop criteria for a
10 nonprofit housing agency to be eligible for grants under the program.
11 Such criteria shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the region
12 served by the agency, (2) the demonstrated need of homeless veterans
13 within such region for job placement, (3) the agency's ability to support
14 and implement the work of a job placement specialist, and (4) such
15 other factors as may be relevant. Any agency receiving a grant under

16 the program shall, prior to offering employment to a job placement
17 specialist, submit to the Labor Commissioner and the Commissioner of
18 Veterans' Affairs, the resume of the person it is intending to employ,
19 and said commissioners shall approve or disapprove such hiring not
20 later than ten business days after submittal of such resume.

21 (c) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner
22 of Veterans' Affairs, shall designate a state-wide coordinator to
23 manage the network of employment services for veterans. The duties
24 of the coordinator shall include (1) overseeing the work of the job
25 placement specialists hired pursuant to the program established by
26 this section, (2) identifying and coordinating employment specialists
27 and job developers throughout the state who work with veterans, (3)
28 centralizing and facilitating job referrals, (4) organizing a network of
29 employers who will hire and support homeless veterans or veterans at
30 risk of homelessness, (5) providing information to employers about
31 resources and incentives available to those who employ veterans, (6)
32 supporting efforts to automatically transfer military occupational
33 certifications to the private sector, and (7) doing all that is necessary to
34 provide homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness with
35 effective employment services. The coordinator shall be housed within
36 the Labor Department, but shall provide monthly reports and updates
37 to the Labor Commissioner and the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs.

38 (d) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the
39 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, shall provide a report in
40 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
41 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
42 cognizance of matters relating to labor, veterans and housing,
43 regarding the establishment, implementation and results of the
44 Veterans' Opportunities pilot program. Such report shall be submitted
45 not later than January 1, 2015, and shall include any recommendations
46 for changes to said program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Veterans' Opportunities pilot program to actively seek opportunities for veterans to enter the workplace.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]